

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JELEADER:JES

APPROVED BY D: MR. ROSENBLATT

NEA:LBLAINGEN

S/S4MEALUM

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R 190030Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277714

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CE, XD

SUBJECT: CEYLONese AMBASSADOR CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY

SUMMARY: CEYLONese AMUASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL DECEMBER 16 FOR BRIEFING PRIOR KANAKARATNE'S RETURN TO COLOMBO FOR HOME LEAVE. ACTING SECRETARY GAVE RUN-DOWN ON SECRETARY'S VISITS TO INDIA AND PEKING. KANAKARATNE INDICATED SOME CEYLONese WARINESS OF INDIAN MOTIVES BUT SAID RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED. HE ALSO GAVE STRONG PITCH FOR INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE (IOPZ) CONCEPT, FOR PL 480 AID TO SRI LANKA AND FOR U.S. SUPPORT TO CEYLONese CANDIDATE TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA, KANAKARATNE, CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY DECEMBER 16 SAYING HE WOULD WELCOME BRIEFING ON SECRETARY'S RECENT TRAVELS SO HE COULD PERSONALLY REPORT TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE. ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN, SRI LANKA COUNTRY OFFICER LEADER AND CEYLONese EMBASSY OFFICER DHANAPALA SAT IN. KANAKARATNE
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NOTED CEYLONese UNDERSTANDING WHY SECRETARY COULD NOT VISIT

SRI LANKA ON SOUTH ASIA TRIP; HIS GOVERNMENT KNEW VISIT COULD BE NO MORE THAN ONE DAY AFFAIR IN ANY EVENT AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT PRESSURE FOR SRI LANKA VISIT WOULD BE UNFAIR.

2. ACTING SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT SECRETARY'S TOUR OF SOUTH ASIA HAD GONE WELL. TIME IN INDIA ESPECIALLY WAS IMPORTANT SINCE INDIA AND U.S. HAD BEEN AT ODDS SINCE 1971 INDO-PAKISTANI WAR; WE NEEDED TO PUT THAT BEHIND US. SECRETARY WAS PLEASED WITH THE VISIT AND THOUGHT IT HAD IMPROVED RELATIONS. US REALIZED OF COURSE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE ONE DERIVING FROM INDEPENDENT POLICIES ON EACH SIDE. INGERSOLL ADDED THAT US WANTS TO HELP INDIA IN ITS EFFORT TO DEVELOP, AND KANAKARATNE QUIPPED THAT HE HOPED THIS DID NOT MEAN HELPING INDIA TO DOMINATE THE REGION. KANAKARATNE SAID INDIA - SRI LANKA RELATIONS NOW ARE IMPROVED BUT THAT SOME INDIAN ACTIONS HAVE NOT INSPIRED CONFIDENCE AMONG THE SMALLER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. SAID ACTIONS LIKE THAT IN SIKKIM CREATE RESERVATIONS ON PART OF THOSE WHO WANT TO TRUST INDIA.

3. KANAKARATNE THEN INQUIRED ABOUT SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT. INGERSOLL SAID IT REPRESENTED A CONTINUATION OF THE TREND TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS; THE ELEMENTS OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WERE REAFFIRMED. ONLY NEW FEATURE WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT. INGERSOLL WENT ON TO SAY SECRETARY GOT NO IDEA OF SUCCESSION POSSIBILITIES ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A SUBJECT OF PRIME INTEREST. WE DID NOT SEE EVIDENCE OF ANY CHANGE IN CURRENT LEADERSHIP IN PEKING. ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT TENG HSIAO-PING ATTENDED ALL MEETINGS ALTHOUGH SECRETARY HAD CALLED ON CHOU-EN LAI IN HOSPITAL. TENG CLEARLY DID NOT YET HAVE BROAD-GAUGE BACKGROUND OF CHOU. FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO WAS IN ON ALL DISCUSSIONS.

4. KANAKARATNE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING ON THE INDIAN OCEAN HE SHOULD CONVEY TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE. LAINGEN NOTED THAT SECRETARY HAD OBSERVED IN DELHI PRESS CONFERENCE THAT WE AND INDIANS HAD IN EFFECT AGREED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DISAGREE ON THIS SUBJECT. SAME CHARACTERIZATION SEEMED APPLICABLE TO SRI LANKA AND U.S. KANAKARATNE RESPONDED THAT CEYLONSE FEARED ARMS RACE IN INDIAN OCEAN WOULD SPIRAL AND WONDERED IF U.S. AND USSR COULD NOT PURSUE MUTUAL ARMS RESTRAINT APPROACH. INGERSOLL NOTED THAT WE HAD NOT GOTTEN COOPERATION FROM THE SOVIETS ON THIS CONCEPT ALTHOUGH WE HAD RAISED IT SEVERAL YEARS AGO. KANAKARATNE PRESSED ON SUBJECT AND SAID HE THOUGHT WE

HAD NOT SUFFICIENTLY PURSUED INITIATIVE. LAINGEN SAID WE
FEELBALL NOW IN SOVIET COURT.

5. KANAKARATNE WENT ON TO STATE CEYLONENE POSITION.
SAID SRI LANKA STOOD TO LOSE POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY
BY AN ARMS RACE BECAUSE THEY INEVITABLY WOULD GET SUCKED
IN. SAID HE APPRECIATED AMERICAN "AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE"
ON SUBJECT OF INDIAN OCEAN BUT THIS WAS MATTER OF URGENT
CONCERN TO SRI LANKA. CEYLONENE WERE VERY WORRIED THAT
SPIRAL COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL. LITTORALS WANT TO CONTROL
IT BECAUSE THEY KNOW IF TENSIONS RISE IN AREA SMALL
COUNTRIES WILL BE DRAWN IN. LAINGEN RESPONDED THAT WE
HOPED CEYLONENE WOULD SEE U.S. PRESENCE FOR WHAT IT IS:
LIMITED.

6. INGERSOLL ASKED ABOUT CEYLONENE ECONOMIC SITUATION.
KANAKARATNE RESPONDED THAT CEYLONENE APPRECIATED OUR
PROBLEMS ON PL 480 BUT SITUATION WAS CRITICAL. SRI LANKA
DISAGREED WITH AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ' PROPOSALS
BECAUSE EVEN IF FOOD AVAILABLE IN MARKET PLACE, SRI
LANKA DOESN'T HAVE MONEY TO BUY. SAID EGYPT AND SYRIA
COULD GET FOOD AND MONEY HELP FROM FRIENDS BUT SRI LANKA
HAS NO ALTERNATIVE. INGERSOLL RESPONDED THAT WE HOPED TO
HAVE A DECISION ON THIRD QUARTER PL 480 ALLOCATIONS THIS
WEEK AND ASSURED KANAKARATNE THAT SRI LANKA WHEAT NEEDS
GETTING ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.

7. AS FINAL POINT KANAKARATNE PUT IN PLUG FOR U.S. SUPPORT
TO T.S. FERNANDO AS MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE. SAID HE HOPED U.S. COULD HELP SINCE FERNANDO
WELL QUALIFIED. INGERSOLL SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE277714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JELEADER:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0089
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741222/aaaaasjq.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEYLONese AMBASSADOR CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY SUMMARY: CEYLONese AMUASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALLED ON ACTING
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CE, XD
To: COLOMBO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005